



## The Xavier University School of Medicine donates a full scholarship to the Miss Aruba Universe Pageant

Thursday morning was a treat for the ten lovely young women that are competing for the title of “Miss Aruba Universe” on Saturday, August 5, as they toured the classes and hallways of the Xavier University School of Medicine (XUSOM,) located on the Paardenbaaistraat. The occasion was the announcement that the Medical School will award to the winner of the pageant a full Xavier Science Scholarship, valued at \$45,000 U.S. This will allow the young woman that will represent Aruba in the Miss Universe Pageant of 2007 the opportunity to pursue a career in medicine, something in which a number of the candidates expressed an interest. In particular Mila Ponson, who already holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Campbell University in North Carolina and has completed her pre-med, so she now has some very strong motivation to take the title!

Xaviar Director of Operations Kanaan Baroud expressed his pleasure at awarding the scholarship to the pageant, in the hopes that whoever wins will take advantage of the opportunity to receive an education that hundreds of students have traveled from all corners of the globe to pursue. The scholarship will entitle the winner to complete the Basic Science Program; an intense course of non-stop study that takes a student to the honored White Coat Ceremony and prepares them for clinical rotations in the U.S. Since the school opened in September of last year they have seen twenty students go on to pursue their internships in through their headquarters in Atlanta.

Thursday morning’s tour of the school premises was not only a treat for the beautiful candidates, but for the students, which are a majority male, as well. Even Dean of Science, Dr. Gil Apacible appreciated the opportunity to greet the beauty queens, and with Mr. Baroud, saw they each left with a beautiful Xavier agenda as a parting gift.

The Miss Aruba Universe Pageant winner is judged on her not only grace and beauty, but also intelligence. This gift from the Xavier University School of Medicine is the offer of a very bright and special future for someone wise enough to take advantage of this valuable opportunity, and Star Promotions, the pageant’s organizers expressed gratitude for the school’s generous gesture.